What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

receiving a video data stream comprising a plurality of portions;

performing a scaling operation on the video data stream to produce a plurality of scaled portions wherein the scaling operation comprises a scaling ratio; and

varying a density of scaled portions stored in the memory wherein the density is related to the scaling ratio.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

accessing a scaled portion from the memory;

retrieving a data sample from the scaled portion; and

using the data sample in a second scaling operation.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

dividing the memory into a plurality of lines;

identifying a line; and

storing a number of scaled portions in the line wherein the number is related to the scaled ratio.

4. A system comprising:

a memory comprising a number of bytes;

a scaler for performing a scaling operation, the scaling operation identifiable by a scaling ratio, wherein the scaler receives a data stream comprising a plurality of portions and produces a plurality of scaled portions; and

a memory controller coupled to the memory for storing an amount of scaled portions in the memory, wherein the amount corresponds to the scaling ratio.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the data stream is a video data stream.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the video data stream comprises a plurality of frames and each frame comprises a predetermined number of bytes.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the number of bytes in the memory is smaller than the predetermined number of bytes.

8. The system of claim 4, wherein the scaling operation is a horizontal scaling operation.

9. The system of claim 4, further comprising:

a second scaler for performing a second scaling operation, identifiable by a second scaling ratio.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the second scaling ratio is identical to the first scaling ratio.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the second scaling operation is a vertical scaling operation.

12. The system of claim 9, further comprising:

a scaling control unit coupled to the second scaler, wherein the second scaler further comprises a finite impulse response filter including a

plurality of coefficients and the scaling control unit changes the amount of coefficients in the filter in relation to the scaling ratio.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the scaling control unit further comprises a look-up table including coefficient values for changing the amount of coefficients.

14. The system of claim 4, further comprising a first-in-first-out memory.

15. The system of claim 4, wherein the memory is an on-chip memory.

16. An article comprising a medium storing instructions that enable a processor-based system to:

receive a video data stream comprising a plurality of portions;

perform a scaling operation on the video data stream to produce a scaled video data stream, wherein the scaling operation comprises a scaling ratio; and

vary a density of the scaled video data stream stored in the memory wherein the density is related to the scaling ratio.

17. The article of claim 16, further storing instructions that enable a processor-based system to:

access a scaled portion from the memory;

retrieve a data sample from the scaled portion; and

use the data sample in a second scaling operation.

18. The article of claim 16, further storing instructions that enable a processor-based system to:

divide the memory into a plurality of lines;

identify a line of the plurality of lines; and

store a number of scaled portions in the line wherein the number is related to the scaling ratio.